



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES April 30, 2012

PRESENT:

Mark Kaplan, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Tina Helm, Selectman
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Doug MacMichael, New London Resident
Jim Wheeler, Budget Committee Chair
Tom DeMille, President of the New London Barn Playhouse
Steve Greenbaum, New London Resident
Michael Glecius, Elkins Fish & Game Club President
Anita Glecius
Charles Adams, New London Resident
Emerson Colby, David Rayno, Charles Kellogg, Joyce Kellogg, Marsha Single, Wilmot Residents
Brian Armentrout, New London Resident
Bruce Hudson & Renate Kannler, New London Residents
W. Michael Todd, New London Resident & Town Moderator
Ed & Cindy Canane, Sutton Residents & New London land-owners
Janet Kidder, New London Resident
Merry Armentrout, *The Intertown Record*

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Tom DeMille – New London Barn Playhouse

Mr. DeMille thanked the Town for allowing the Barn Players the use of Whipple Hall in the past and said that in 1933 before they purchased the building they are in now, they actually used the hall for their first performance. He said that they don't have enough space at the Barn to rehearse and in the past they have also used the Baptist Church and other area churches. Mr. DeMille said that have a budget of \$720,000 and are a major business in town. It is their 80th season and they have come a long way with their finances but they rely heavily upon fundraising. They are asking for the use of Whipple Hall and requested that the fee be waived or lower than the set rate. It was noted that there were 70 days that they would like to use Whipple Hall.

Chair Kaplan said that the Board of Selectmen have been looking at the Town's costs and that since a great many different groups use Whipple Hall, waiving the \$50 fee doesn't permit them to pay someone to come in and clean it up. Mr. DeMille said that it was the rental fee that they were concerned with, not the cleaning fee. Ms. Helm said that the Town hasn't been good about collecting the rental fee from anyone in the past, but felt that if they are going to have a fee outlined in a contract, they have to implement it. She said she had been thinking about this issue a lot, as the Barn is an important aspect of the town. She asked if the Barn stores some scenery at Whipple Hall. Mr. DeMille said that they sometimes leave props there but they try to keep them aside and out of the way. Ms. Helm noted that

another theatre group is using Whipple Hall for rehearsals but are relinquishing the use of it for one night while another group uses it.

Ms. Helm said that she was not in favor of waiving the rental fee totally but wondered if they could come to a compromise on the amount. She would also like them to be willing, for a one-night event, to allow the facility to be used by someone else, should the need arise. Mr. DeMille said that they actually do this already. He noted that on Fridays they leave early in case the band concert has to be moved inside. He said they would cooperate with the Town on this kind of thing.

Mr. Bianchi said they are reexamining and modifying the contracts for the use of all of the town buildings. He said he read the letter Mr. DeMille sent, but felt that if they waived the fee entirely, the Town would be giving up \$1,700 in rental fees. Other non-profits have to come before the Town to get funding each year, such as COA and the VNA. He thought they should consider what the cost to the Town would be to waive this. Mr. Bianchi noted that Whipple Hall would be used by the Barn Players 70 out of the 92 days of the summer season. He recalled that the hall had been left in bad condition a couple of years ago. Ms. Helm said that this was one year and that they did ameliorate the situation. Mr. DeMille said he would be sure that this would not happen again.

Mr. DeMille said that he understands the point of view of the Board. He would appreciate some cooperation on the fee however. He wondered if half would be appropriate. Ms. Helm said she felt that waiving fees should be taken each case as they come along, as they were doing that night. She felt half was fair. The rest of the Board of Selectmen said they were fine with half as well.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the New London Barn Players to use Whipple Hall for 70 days requested for rehearsal, and to have their fee be waived of 50%, totaling \$875.00, in addition to the \$50 deposit required by the rental contract, and that they are to be flexible in relinquishing the use of the hall when there is a conflict with another group. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Elkins Fish & Game Club – Parking Request

Dave Rayno, who lives on 137 Pine Hill Road in Wilmot, was present to respond to a recent article from the *Intertown Record* regarding overflow parking being considered on a parcel of land in New London for events happening at the shooting range in Elkins. Chair Kaplan noted that an email was sent to the Wilmot Board of Selectmen about this request, asking them if they had any objections to the Club using the New London property for parking. The Wilmot Board responded via a phone call to Ms. Hallquist that they did not have any objections to the plan. Mr. Rayno said that he was there to offer some remarks against the land in New London being used for parking, on behalf of other people who live within the area of the shooting range.

Mr. Rayno said that letting people park in that area would expand the use of the facility. They begin shooting at the range on Sundays at noon, which sometimes shakes his house. They stop shooting at 6:30pm and the noise is continuous until then. Almost every weekend it is this way, and sometimes during the week as well. He referred to the article in the *Intertown Record*, which said that Mr. Gelcius (Elkins Fish & Game Club President) said that the Club was increasing the number of events being held there. Mr. Rayno said that this would mean more noise and would be expanding the use. In the article it also said that Mr. Gelcius had offered that the Club had sent numerous letters to the neighbors to promote communication but he has only once received a letter in the 28 years he has lived there. That letter never asked for a response. Mr. Rayno asked the Board of Selectmen to deny the Club's request to allow parking on their land for those using the shooting range.

Chair Kaplan observed that the Club was in Wilmot. Mr. Rayno disagreed and said that the Club was in Elkins but the shooting range is in Wilmot. Mr. Kaplan observed that if the Board does not let people park on this property, they will park on the roadway anyway which will make it hard for anyone else to travel on the road. He did not see this as an expansion of use.

Ms. Helm asked if Mr. Rayno had been aware of a lot of parking along the roadway. Mr. Rayno said he has not observed this. Chair Kaplan pointed out that the Board was also informed that the Wilmot Police Department has no problem with the cars being moved into the parking lot. Mr. Rayno asked what the liability was if someone were to get hurt in the parking lot. Mr. Bianchi said this would be addressed in an agreement with the Elkins Fish & Game Club that will be signed prior to them parking there with their expressed permission.

Mr. Gelcius said that the Club was incorporated in New London but the only property the Club owns is in Wilmot. All the events are held in Wilmot. He agreed that events are being expanded but noted that events can be for archery and not just shooting. He was confident that they won't be increasing the noise. He noted that they will also be doing fishing events. In the past, events have been limited to four per year but they'd like more involvement with the community and their main concern is safety. The Club has insurance that covers them when they do events even if they are on someone else's property. Mr. Gelcius said that they are willing to sign a hold-harmless agreement with New London for use of the property.

Mr. Bianchi said that his concern expressed at the last meeting was that it is a pre-existing, non-conforming use. He thought that by having the Town of New London allow this area to be used for parking, it could circumvent the Town of Wilmot's concern about this being an expansion of use. He thought this would make them be a bad neighbor. Mr. Bianchi said that no one has said that there is a violation here. He added that he was sympathetic to the neighbors' concerns, as he agreed that the noise coming from the range is annoying. He didn't think that allowing people to park on New London's land would increase the shooting or the noise. If the Town of Wilmot expressed that they don't want this area to be used for parking, as it would expand their use, he would not be in favor of giving the Club permission to use the land.

Mr. Rayno said that they are in a catch-22. The Board of Selectmen in New London says it is Wilmot's problem and the Wilmot Board of Selectmen says it is New London's problem. Ms. Helm believed that perhaps there hasn't been enough communication between the Club and the neighborhood. She didn't think that it was their job as the New London Board of Selectmen to determine if it was an expanded use. Their job is to respond to the request to allow the property to be used for parking. She didn't feel there was a reason why the request shouldn't be granted as it would encourage a safer environment.

Ed Canane, a resident of Sutton who also owns land in New London on Pleasant Street and Baker Road stood to offer his remarks. He said that he and his wife are not in favor of New London granting the ability for a non-profit to park in that area. He pointed out that state law defines an abutter as not only property that is next to the property in question, an abutter can be identified as an aggrieved owner. He used the UNH GIS program to show how far they live from the range, which was under a mile. Their property in New London is less than 3,500 feet from the range. They bought the property under full disclosure that the police fire weapons near their land, so they understood the possibility of noise. Mr. Canane said that they are aggrieved due to the loss in value of their property. They disagree with the perception that there has not been an increase in use at the range; it has increased over the years greatly. By allowing the parking to increase, it is an increase of use. Mr. Canane said that he is a member of the Sutton Zoning Board and that they always look at parking requirements when considering a business or organization. If New London grants the gun club the ability to expand their parking onto the New London property, there is no doubt that it will result in an increase in use. He said that he has added a lot of value

to his land in New London and would still buy it today, but considering what has happened with the gun range, he wouldn't pay today what he paid for it back then.

Mr. Gelcius said that the reason parking on the roadway has not been observed in most cases is that they have only a limited number of events per year. The parking on their property is only for use a few times/year, not on a day to day basis. They track all the numbers they have at the range. From April 1 – Dec 31 of 2011, 101 days out of 273 there were no people shooting at the range. There were 2,623 hours available for people to shoot at the range and out of those hours, people were shooting only 15% of the time. At the end of 2011, they had 155 members. They now have 127. During the first quarter this year, from January 1st through the end of March, there was no one there for 53 out of the 91 days. Mr. Gelcius added that they are located within a venue where other shooting is done including that of the Police as well as a private land owner who also shoots frequently. He reiterated that they only want to use the extra space for parking during special events and not for day-to-day use.

Chair Kaplan said there are so many people who are claiming the noise level has increased. This astonishes him with the statistics Mr. Gelcius had given. Joyce Kellogg, who lives on Deerwood Drive, believed one reason that the noise has increased is because there are now semi-automatic weapons and pistols being shot there. The shooting may not be more often, but it is louder.

Mr. Gelcius said there is no good way to be able to quantify the shooting at the range. If one person is firing rapidly, it is the same as if two or three people are there shooting individually. He claimed that a semi-automatic weapon makes no more noise than a revolver. Mr. Gelcius said it was obvious that the neighbors don't want the range there. He understands this and has had initiatives over the years to do sound abatement. Unfortunately, it is a gun range and it makes noise. Not everything they do there is noise-related. They do a good job tracking the numbers to try to make sure there are not too many people in the Club in an effort to keep the noise down.

Steve Greenbaum, a New London resident is a member of the Club. He said that if the venue they were talking about was the Barn Playhouse, there wouldn't be a problem or a complaint. This is a parking issue. Getting into the State laws and talking about noise is outside the purview of what is being asked. They need to determine whether this use will make the road safer to pass. He asked them to keep it at a parking issue. They won't solve the other problems that night. Mr. Greenbaum said that the people from Wilmot have never replied to the letters that have been sent out from the range. He added that 30-40 years ago people could go into their back yards and shoot but due to the current political climate and people living so close together, they can't do this anymore. This request is being made for safety.

Mr. Bianchi asked if denying the Club the ability to park on their land will make things better for the neighbors. He observed that he didn't feel denying the Club's request would make things any more quiet at the range. He understood it was a parking issue but there was also a Club neighborhood noise issue.

Charles Kellogg from Deerwood Drive said that he has lived there for five years and has never received a letter nor been invited to speak to the club members. Other neighbors have told them the same. He has heard that the Elkins Fish & Game Club was trying to recruit members from cities like Manchester and Concord. This was something that concerns him and his neighbors. Additional parking would be an easy way to increase membership and usage of the range.

Emerson Colby also lives on Deerwood Drive. 18 months ago the Elkins Fish & Game Club came to the Town of Wilmot with a requested change of use. As a result, it was determined that parking was an issue. He wondered if the Board of Selectmen in Wilmot had mentioned that to the New London Board of Selectmen and if it had been reviewed. Ms. Hallquist reported that the only information she received in

her conversation with Wilmot office staff was that the Selectmen had no problem with the request nor did the Wilmot Police Chief. There was no discussion of past dealings with the Club.

Mr. Gelcius addressed the point made earlier by Mr. Colby concerning the change of use issue. He said the Club went before the Wilmot Board of Selectmen about a building permit. It was nothing to do with a change of use. They had a proposal to move a few things around and the Board of Selectmen said if they were to instigate that, they'd need to do a site plan and get into more issues. They decided not to move ahead with their plans as the Club did not want it to be perceived as a change of use. Mr. Gelcius had with him a list of everyone who had been sent letters from the range. He said again that they just want this extra parking space for special events.

Mr. Canane said that what he has been hearing is anecdotal but that parking is the fact. When someone comes before a Land Use Board and asks for increased parking, it is because of an expansion of use. Since 1898 they haven't needed more parking but now they do. He opined that his property will be diminished in value because of what he anticipates is an increase in use.

Chair Kaplan said that the Fish & Game Club has used this parking area over the last several years and it isn't an expansion. Mr. Gelcius just wants to keep doing what he has been doing without having to come to ask permission every time. If the Board of Selectmen does not grant this permission, people will park along the street.

Ms. Helm asked when the space has been used in the past. Mr. Gelcius said that it was used whenever they have an event that they felt they'd need extra parking for. They would call New London and ask permission and it has been done on an individual basis.

Mr. Bianchi said he gets concerned that an issue between the Elkins Fish & Game, the Town of Wilmot, and their residents is falling into the New London Board of Selectmen's lap. He didn't think it should be their decision about how the range is run.

Anita Gelcius said she is a member of the Elkins Fish & Game Club. She said the events they want the extra parking for are "First-Shots" which is geared towards youngsters, as well as a women's event. She stressed that this extra parking would be safer for the women and their families to come and park off-street.

John Schlosser, who lives on Pine Hill Road in Wilmot, operates a kayak business in Kearsarge Valley Road. He opined that Wilmot was brutal on parking. If people park on Kearsarge Valley Road they get in trouble. Other parts of the town are not so tightly managed.

David Rayno asked if a decision had been made on this by the New London Board of Selectmen yet. Mr. Bianchi said they had not. They wanted to make sure their decision didn't go against what the Town of Wilmot wanted. They received a response from the Wilmot Town Offices that said they didn't have a problem with it. The Wilmot Police Chief agreed that it would be better to get the cars off the street. He suggested that those with problems about this from Wilmot should go to their own Board of Selectmen to try and get something done on their end.

Ms. Hallquist said that she spoke with Nancy from the Wilmot Town Office on Tuesday, April 24th. This individual said that the Board of Selectmen had no problem with it, and asked her to check with the Police Chief. She had spoken with their police chief, who had no objections to use of the property for parking. Ms. Hallquist stressed that she did not speak with the Wilmot Police Chief personally; the information was relayed through the office staff.

Ms. Helm said that she would like to come to a conclusion at their next meeting, the following Monday night.

Mr. Canane wanted to know if any questions and answers provided to the Board of Selectmen could be transmitted by some mechanism, so that they would be prepared with questions for the next meeting. Ms. Hallquist said that people can always email her for information and she would be happy to provide whatever information she may have.

Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the minutes of April 10, 2012, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2012 CAC Meeting, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Hallquist made a change that Mr. Markoff asked to have clarified.

On page 3, it should note that New London has the fourth highest density in the region, not the State.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the minutes of April 16, 2012, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Effort to Amend Article 4

Chair Kaplan said they have received some information regarding the effort to amend Article 4, the Public Safety budget, to increase the appropriation to reinstate the police officer position that was eliminated in the budget.

Mr. Bianchi said he was concerned with the information being distributed. He wanted to clarify that the statement about public safety was not the decision of just three people. The Town elects the Board of Selectmen to make these decisions and they do so at meetings every single week. 95% of their decisions are always at the scrutiny of the town at Town Meeting. The decision to do this was not the decision of three people, but of two boards, including the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. He felt it disconcerting to him to have this presented after Mr. Armentrout had never come to a Board of Selectmen or Budget Committee meeting. This issue has been vetted many times with the Police Chief and they have had a lot of comments taken from the public.

Mr. Bianchi said that from information provided from LGC (Local Government Center), New London ranks #4 in Police Department budgets. New London funds their department better than 58 other towns in their group. They fund the Police Department better than 11-12 towns in the 10,000-12,000 population range. He felt that the Police Department, at its current level, was very well funded and didn't feel that the town will be unsafe as a result of the decision in question. Mr. Bianchi said that he has spoken with Chief Seastrand who feels the town will be as safe as it was, even with one officer short. They will cut down the detective's time and will eliminate the DARE program to compensate for this position being cut, but patrols will not change.

Mr. Bianchi said that the crime figures in the information being distributed didn't show that between 2009-2010 the arrests had gone down considerably so that the increase in 2010-2011 isn't as large at seems.

Chair Kaplan said that the LGC information doesn't take into consideration that New London has a college and a hospital. Any town that has both automatically puts the town into a larger-population bracket. Mr. Wheeler didn't agree with this premise.

Ms. Helm said she was delighted to see Mr. Armentrout and wished he had come to meetings sooner. If he had, he would have been there to understand their thinking. Ms. Helm said that Chief Seastrand was at her house for two hours about the issue. She tried to let him know that if he came to the Board of Selectmen and asked to have the vacated position filled, she would be inclined to vote against it to give it a try for a year. Chief Seastrand explained that the safety on the street would not be impaired in any way. They would do some shifting of the current force and would eliminate the DARE program, which, she observed, some feel has not been very effective. Chief Seastrand also indicated he would reduce the use of the second detective as that person would be utilized for patrols instead. She was convinced that the safety of the residents would not be hindered in any way.

Secondly, they had recently had an opening in the Department of Public Works. The Board of Selectmen were committed to not lay anyone off while trying to keep their budget under control, but Richard Lee and his Department agreed that, for a year, they would try to get along without filling the vacant position. She felt it disingenuous to allow the Public Works Department to work with them for a year and try to control the budget and have a different standard for the Police Department.

Mr. Armentrout stood and noted that he lives at 60 Castle Lane in New London. In the past 30 days there have been 17 homicides in New Hampshire. These happened before their decision to cut the position in the Police Department. Ms. Helm said that if putting budgets and the economy aside, her feeling would be to hire as many employees as they could, however she had to transcend her personal feelings to try and represent the townspeople. Mr. Armentrout said if the amendment is voted down, he would be fine with it because it would mean that the taxpayers had spoken.

Mr. Armentrout said that a reduction of one police officer is a large percentage of the force in a small department like this. Mr. Bianchi said that everything is up to the vote of the townspeople. Before the decision was made, it had been discussed at Board of Selectmen's meetings, Budget Committee meetings, both of which encouraged public comment. He reiterated that this was not a decision made by three people. Ms. Helm said she was offended by this as the Selectmen and Budget Committee, as essentially volunteers, had put in many hours making this decision. She noted that there are not a lot of people stepping forward to sit in their seats. Ms. Helm pointed out that she met with all but one person who has express anger with her decision to fill the position. Every person she explained it to has understood and said "OK" to what had been decided about not filling the position. She expects to sit down with the final person who has contacted her and expects she will get similar results. Ms. Helm felt what Mr. Armentrout was doing was alarmist and that he needed to get his facts straight.

Chair Kaplan said that it could be contentious at Town Meeting if Mr. Armentrout went forward with this amendment. He asked the Moderator if they could have a closed ballot on this issue. Mr. Todd said that this could be done but it has to be requested by five people in writing prior to the voice vote. They will count the votes and come back with the results at an appropriate time; the meeting would move forward during this time.

Mr. Hudson asked how the petition to Article 4 came forward. Mr. Bianchi explained that Article 4 as it appears on the Warrant was put on by the Selectmen, as approved in the Budget Committee's Budget. The effort to amend the article is not a petition; it would be an amendment to the article by Mr. Armentrout from the floor at Town Meeting. If there is a second he can speak to the amendment. They will then vote on the amendment and then on the article as presented or as amended.

Mr. Hudson said part of why he and his wife come to the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee meetings is so they get the information presented to them so they know how to vote. They also want to know where their tax dollars are going. He commended the Budget Committee, the Board of Selectmen, and the administration process for their work this year. They were able to keep the tax rate down and should be recognized for all their work. He opined that more people have to get involved. One can only get so much out of the minutes and the Intertown Record articles. He noted that there was lengthy discussion about this reduction in Police Department staff. When he heard Chief Seastrand say that the safety in town would not suffer, he felt good about the decision. If people at Town Meeting hear only certain facts and make a decision right then, he felt it was wrong, but they were entitled to do it. Ms. Helm said that that is the democratic way and those who are involved and know the information need to stand up for what they believe and say just what Mr. Hudson said.

Mr. Hudson said they've also gone to the Municipal Budget Committee meetings and believed people need to be aware of the school budget as it is a huge part of where their money goes. Very few people attend these meeting either. He stressed that people need to take part in their town government.

Ms. Armentrout, pointing out that she was speaking as a citizen and not as a reporter, said she interviewed Chief Seastrand about the issue and that he doesn't agree with the decision made and would prefer to have the extra officer. He said he would do what he could but would much rather have another officer. She said that the Board of Selectmen always listens to the Department Heads, which she respected, but if it was Chief Seastrand's decision, the position would have been filled.

Ms. Helm said that she was under the impression that Chief Seastrand would try this for a year. Obviously he would want to have as much coverage as he possibly can but she felt that he was confident that he could do it with the staffing he currently has. Otherwise she never would have voted as she did as she didn't want to compromise the safety of the Town. Ms. Armentrout said that she was concerned that certain incidents, such as the one when a person was apprehended because he was watching school children on Main Street while looking at pornographic material, wouldn't have been found if the Police Department didn't have the detective there doing his job. She would agree with what Chair Kaplan had said at an earlier meeting; that he'd like to pay a little extra and sleep easy at night.

Mr. Bianchi said that they want the Department Heads to want to do the very best job that they can. However, people in town have seen the infrastructure grow out of proportions from the budgets and there has to be a balance. He said he has talked to Chief Seastrand about this and in his opinion, and from what the Chief is saying, they are not in any more danger without this one officer.

Ms. Armentrout said that a few weeks ago there was a need for back-up and it could only come from Grantham. She was worried that they were already seeing the danger in not having enough patrol officers on at night.

Ms. Helm said they try to balance the entire constituency in the Town. She did not get the feeling from Chief Seastrand that he felt that safety would be compromised. If it was, she would not have voted the way she did.

Mr. Wheeler said he and three members of the Budget Committee met with Chief Seastrand who said he would be very willing, for a year, to not fill the position and reduce the force by one. He said it would not compromise patrols at all, would not eliminate the overnight policemen, but that it would compromise the detective department and the DARE program.

Ms. Armentrout said that this is very different than what she and her husband and Park Adams heard from the Chief. He told them he was glad someone was bringing this amendment up at Town Meeting.

Mr. Hudson said that this issue could be ramped up due to current events, and this alarmist method. He said this conversation should have happened months ago when Chief Seastrand was there to talk about it. If Chief Seastrand is doing an “about-face,” he is also concerned about the current effects. It is give and take and is push-back a lot of the time too. Ms. Helm felt that they had done a good job to give and take in New London with these issues. She was irritated that this could be a contentious issue and people won’t be voting from a basis of any real knowledge.

Chair Kaplan said that Mr. Armentrout gave a net cost of \$75,000, on a \$400,000 house coming to only \$30/year. People may think that this cost would be worth it to fill the position. Ms. Kannler said that these costs add up. Ms. Helm said that this sort of thing is what raises the tax rate.

Town Meeting Warrant and Details

It was determined that the following articles would be read by the following Selectmen:

Article 3 – Mark

Article 4 – Peter

Article 5 – Tina

Article 6 – Mark

Article 7 – Peter

Article 8 – Tina

Article 9 – Mark

Article 10 – Peter

Article 11 – Tina

Article 12 – Mark

Article 13 – Peter

Article 14 – Tina

Article 15 – Peter Stanley or Bob Brown

Article 16 – Peter Stanley or Bob Brown

Article 17 – Peter Stanley or Bob Brown

Article 18 – Shaker Street Petition Warrant Article – Jerry Gold

Article 19 – other business

Ms. Hallquist said that Mr. Markoff wondered if there would be a discussion at Town Meeting about the low turn-out for the school vote in March. The Board noted that there were no plans to discuss the March school elections. Mr. Todd thought that the information Mr. Markoff had to discuss or distribute should be put on his own website and that people could be pointed to it in the newspaper. Ms. Helm noted that she would be working on helping to get the word out to New London voters for the March 2013 vote to try and encourage better participation.

Mr. Todd said that high school students are allowed to assist ballot clerks or help by carrying microphones. He received a call to see if they could gather some students (17 years +) to help out. No one had a problem with this but they weren’t sure if it was too last-minute. Ms. Hallquist said she would check with the elementary school to see if there would be any children leading them in the pledge and singing the Star Spangled Banner.

Chair Kaplan said he would be at the voting booths from 8am – 12pm

Mr. Bianchi would be there from 12pm – 4pm

Ms. Helm would be there from 4pm - to close.

Other

Ms. Hallquist noted that the perambulation had been completed between New London and Springfield.

Ms. Hallquist said Friday at 2pm she and Mr. Bianchi would be going to Concord to speak with Terry Knowles of the Charitable Trust Division Office of the Attorney General. Also attending is Aarne Vesilin of the Bandstand Committee/Kearsarge Community Band and town counsel Bart Mayer. The topic of discussion will be the Steve Mendelson Trust.

Ms. Hallquist said Municipal Matters went out earlier that day to encourage people to attend Town Meeting.

The usual CAC Meeting on Saturday, May 5th would begin at 8:30am and would be a farewell coffee hour to thank Mark Kaplan for his 15 years of service as a Selectman.

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 7 at 6pm.

Town elections and zoning amendment voting will be held on Tuesday, May 8th – 8am-7pm.

Town meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9th at 7pm.

The pre-Town Meeting Potluck Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9th at the old middle school. Ms. Helm and Linda Jackman are coordinating the event.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II(b): to consider the hiring of a public employee.

Kaplan – yes; Helm – yes; Bianchi – yes.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to move out of non-public session.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to seal the minutes of the non-public session until further notice. Mark Kaplan – Yes, Peter Bianchi – Yes, Tina Helm – Yes.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Bianchi said that one finial was missing from the bandstand. He took the broken one to Peter Bloch who said he could find someone to do it if he couldn't. Other finials on the bandstand are cracked and aging. He wondered if it was better to have them all replaced instead of just the one broken one. The price was \$25. The wood would be \$10-\$15. Chair Kaplan suggested doing all of them at once and taking the money from the trust fund for which it was intended. Mr. Bianchi said he would do some more research to see he could get some other prices/methods to compare.

Application for Building Permits:

- Harry M. Snow III, Cottage Lane Lot #6, Map & Lot 085-019-000 – construct a new duplex/townhouse with walkout basement and front porch – Permit #12-029 – Approved.

- Harry M. Snow III, Cottage Lane Lot #4, Map & Lot 085-020-000 – construct a new duplex/townhouse with walkout basement and front porch – Permit #12-020 – Approved.
- Judi Beaumont, 214/216 Soo Nipi Park Road Map & Lot 127-001-000 – demolish 2 cottages – Permit #12-031 – Approved.
- Carolyn & Scott Ellison, 29 Forest Acres Road, Map & Lot 077-038-000 – add to an existing driveway – Permit #12-032 – Approved.
- Anne Boisvert, 70 Parkside Rd. Map & Lot 073-010-000 – 12x16 deck – Permit #12-033 – Approved.
- Weber Family Investment Trust, 45 Scythe Shop Road, Map & Lot 078-018-000 – finish room above garage – Permit #12-034 – Approved.

Application for Sign Permits:

- Permanent sign: Mascoma Savings, 259 Newport Road – Approved.
- Temporary sign: Kearsarge Community Pres. Church – 82 King Hill Road – Approved.

Application for use of Sydney Crook Conference Room:

- AIL – Thursdays, July 19-August 9, 2012 1:00 – 4:00 PM – Approved.
- AIL – Friday Mary 18, 2012 10AM – 1:00 PM – Approved.

Other Items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher
- Pole licenses
- Intent to cut – H. Cleveland – Map & Lot 097-001-000 – approved
- Tax Abatement – Ronald & Alice Hill, 53 Hilltop Place, in the amount of \$36.61 – Approved.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to adjourn the meeting.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London